

**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
FINAL POLLUTION REPORT**

**DATE:** October 3, 2003

**SUBJECT:** Norfolk Southern Railroad Soybean Oil Discharge  
Sheffield Rail Yard  
Wilson Dam Road/Mile Post 401A  
Muscle Shoals, Colbert County, Alabama

**FROM:** Steve Spurlin, OSC  
USEPA Region 4

**TO:** Don Rigger, EPA  
Region 4, RRC

**I. BACKGROUND**

FPN#:	None assigned
SITE ID#:	None assigned
PROJECT CEILING:	\$ 0
LEAD AGENCY:	EPA, Region 4, ERRB 61 Forsyth Street, SW Atlanta, Georgia 30303
NPL:	No
FUNDING:	OPA
LEAD OSC:	Steve Spurlin

**II SITUATION**

Date of Notification:	25 April 03
Date Action Started:	25 April 03
Pollutant:	Soybean Oil
Quantity Discharged:	Approximately 5000 gallons
Source Identification:	Rail tank car release in train yard

**III ACTIONS TAKEN**

OSC Spurlin responded to the release on April 25, 2003. The release was initially reported by the Norfolk Southern Railroad (Norfolk) via the National Response Center (NRC#643243) as a 10,000 gallon release of soybean oil from a bottom cap of a rail tank car. The soybean oil released to the ballast area along the rail tracks in the Norfolk rail yard were it was discovered by a worker at approximately 0430. Norfolk hired Hepaco Inc. to undertake cleanup of the oil from the spill area. OSC Spurlin arrived on-scene Friday afternoon. A

representative from the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) was on-scene. The ADEM representative briefed the OSC, indicating that the oil did not appear to have reached any waterways. The oil had saturated the ballast area along several tracks. Hepaco had excavated recovery pits along the rails to facilitate recovery of the product by vac-truck. The OSC remained on-scene till darkness prevented further work in a safe environment.

On Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, EPA returned to the scene. Norfolk's contractor continued attempts to flush the product to the open trenches for collection. The collected product was stored temporarily in a frac tank on-site. EPA, ADEM, and Norfolk discussed what continued actions EPA and ADEM would expect to address the spill. Norfolk proposed to continue product recovery by installing a buried collection system along the tracks. This would allow the trapped oil to flush to collection points over time. EPA and ADEM concurred with the proposal. Over the next two days, the trenches were constructed and Norfolk's contractor initiated monitoring and collection of product.

Follow-up conversations with Norfolk in May indicated that product was still being collected. Calculations by Norfolk after the tanker was weighed, indicated approximately 5000 gallons of oil had been released.

#### **IV FUTURE ACTIONS**

EPA ERRB does not anticipate any further involvement with the site.

#### **V ESTIMATED COSTS**

EPA	\$1000
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